

1-112 (Cancelled)

113. (Previously Amended) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member, the inner tubular member extending at least to the distal end of the outer tubular member;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to prevent migration of the occluding member into the aortic root by passing an inflation fluid through a flow passage formed by the inner tubular member and the outer tubular member.

114. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 113 wherein the expandable occluding member comprises an inflatable balloon having a distal end attached to said inner tubular member and a proximal end attached to said outer tubular member, ~~and wherein the step of expanding the occluding member comprises the substep of inflating the balloon by passing an inflation fluid through a flow passage between the inner tubular member and the outer tubular member.~~

115. (Previously Added) The method of claim 114 further comprising the step of measuring pressure within the inflatable balloon with a pressure transducer within the inflatable balloon.

116. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113 wherein the step of introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel is preceded by the step of withdrawing the outer tubular member proximally with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device.

117. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113 wherein the step of introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel is preceded by the step of rotating the outer tubular

member with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device

118. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of measuring aortic pressure distal to the occluding member.

119. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of measuring aortic pressure distal to the occluding member with a pressure transducer near the distal end of the shaft.

120-125. (Cancelled)

126. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113, wherein the expanding step comprises expanding the occluding member such that the passage of debris generated during a cardiovascular procedure is precluded by the occluding member.

127. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113, wherein the expanding step comprises expanding the occluding member to a pressure sufficient to substantially prevent blood from passing by the occluding member and into the aortic root.

128. (Previously Added) The method of claim 113, wherein the expanding step comprises expanding the occluding member to a pressure sufficient to block blood flow between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery.

129. (Previously Amended) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery,

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member, having a distal end attached to the inner tubular member and a proximal end attached to the outer tubular member, is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to block blood flow therethrough by passing an inflation fluid through a flow passage formed by the inner tubular member and the outer tubular member.

130. (Previously Added) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery:

providing an aortic catheter having a shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end thereof;

withdrawing the outer tubular member proximally with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic catheter;

introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and the expandable occluding member is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to block blood flow therethrough.

131. (Previously Added) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery:

providing an aortic catheter having a shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end thereof;

rotating the outer tubular member with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic catheter;

introducing the distal end of the shaft into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and the occluding member is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to block blood flow therethrough.

132. (Previously Amended) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member, and a pressure transducer carried on the shaft distal to the inner tubular member;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery;

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to block blood flow therethrough; and

measuring the aortic pressure with the pressure transducer.

133. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 132 wherein the pressure transducer is carried on the inner tubular member.

134. (Previously Added) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member, the inner tubular member extending at least to the distal end of the outer tubular member;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery;

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to prevent migration of the occluding member into the aortic root; and

measuring pressure within the occluding member with a pressure transducer positioned within the occluding member.

135. (Previously Added) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member, the inner tubular member extending at least to the distal end of the outer tubular member;

withdrawing the outer tubular member proximally with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to prevent migration of the occluding member into the aortic root.

136. (Previously Added) A method of positioning a catheter in a patient's ascending aorta between the patient's coronary ostia and the patient's brachiocephalic artery, comprising:

introducing a distal end of a shaft of an aortic catheter into a blood vessel downstream of the patient's ascending aorta, the shaft comprising an inner tubular member within an outer tubular member, the inner tubular member extending at least to the distal end of the outer tubular member;

rotating the outer tubular member with respect to the inner tubular member to reduce the profile of the occluding member on the shaft of the aortic partitioning device;

transluminally positioning the shaft so that the distal end of the shaft is in the ascending aorta and an expandable occluding member attached to the shaft near the distal end is disposed between the coronary ostia and the brachiocephalic artery; and

expanding the occluding member within the ascending aorta to prevent migration of the occluding member into the aortic root.